

# TRAIL & Landscape

A PUBLICATION CONCERNED WITH  
NATURAL HISTORY AND CONSERVATION



# Trail & Landscape

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## The Ottawa Field ~ Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

## President

Dr. Roger Taylor

**Objectives of the Club:** To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

**Club Publications:** THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, devoted to publishing research in natural history; TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a non-technical publication of general interest to local naturalists. THE SHRIKE, a local birding newsletter, is available by separate subscription.

**Field Trips, Lectures** and other natural history activities are arranged for local members. See "Coming Events" in this issue.

**Membership Fees:** Individual (yearly) \$10      Sustaining (yearly) \$25  
Family (yearly) \$12      Life (one payment) \$200

Subscription (libraries or other institutions) \$10 per year (Volume)

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# TRAIL & Landscape®

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# Welcome, New Members

## Ottawa Area

R.M. & T. Amott  
Barbara J. Aris & family  
Frances J. Atkinson  
Diana I. Barnes  
Doris Bockholt & family  
John G. Bols  
Anne Brown  
Colin Brown  
Marc Buchanan & family  
Lee M. Cairnie  
Joan R. Campbell  
Jacques L. Cantin & family  
G. Choma  
Sherry L. Collins  
John P. Copeland & family  
Mr. & Mrs. R.E. Coulter  
Ronald B. Daniels  
Pat R. Deacon  
Nicole Defretiere  
John J. Dickinson  
Terry G. Duguid  
Valerie DuPlessis  
Keith Egger & Susan Francis  
Maureen Forsythe  
C. William S. Gard  
Nan D. Grainger  
Carol J. Gravelle  
Kathleen E. Gray  
Peter & Stephanie Harker  
Kathryn L. Hnatiuk  
Jeffrey S. Hudson  
Sally & Charles Ingles  
James A. Jackson & family  
Eileen P. Keith  
Norma J. Kenny  
Louise Kingsley  
Guy A. Kingston & family  
Randy & Patricia Last

Lorraine Littlefield  
Barbara J. Lomax  
Colleen A. Mahoney & family  
Carl & Clarine Maiolani  
Peter & Vicki Maley  
Kay L. Marshall  
Hermione E. McIntyre  
Louise Moisan  
Sheila O'Neill  
Julie Philbrook  
Alfred & Patricia Pick  
Cairine Powell & family  
Marie E. Preston & family  
Gillian A. Prot  
Don Rivard  
Debbie G. Robinson  
David Schneider  
Charlotte H. Schramm  
Elaine Sigler  
Arnie Simpson & family  
Douglas J. Sleeman & family  
Elaine S. Slone  
Fraser Smith & family  
Mr. & Mrs. Ian D. Smith  
Sharon L. Smith  
Colette L.M. Souliere  
John M. Spencer & family  
Corbett C. Stewart & family  
Ivan M. Timonin  
Carol K. Vlassoff  
Audrey E. Webster  
Frank White & family  
Dorothy J. Whyte  
Ron I. Willson  
M.F. Winterson & family  
John & Gillian Woodroffe  
Mrs. E.W. Wright  
Dorothy M. Young

## Other Areas

R.G. Arbuckle  
    Sherwood Park, Alberta  
David J. Bradley  
    Hamilton, Ontario  
Vivian R. Brownell  
    Oshawa, Ontario

Luc Brouillet  
    Waterloo, Ontario  
Bruce H. Campbell  
    Anchorage, Alaska  
Paul Catling  
    Toronto, Ontario

Other Areas (continued)

M.B. Constable  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Steven H. Fritts  
Grand Rapids, Michigan  
John T. Harrison  
Ridley Park, Penn.  
Tedd N. Hauptman  
Pocatello, Idaho  
Greg Henry  
Halifax, N.S.  
William L. Highhouse  
Warren, Penn.  
Christopher Lemieux  
Leamington, Ontario  
Dave McLeod  
London, Ontario  
Dr. D. Bruce Means  
Tallahassee, Florida  
Randy Milton  
Wolfville, N.S.  
Margorie L. Nietfeld  
Halifax, N.S.

Mark D. Osborne  
Seebe, Alberta  
Richard R. Paradis  
Bedford, N.H.  
Aevar Petersen,  
Iceland  
T.E. Quinney  
London, Ontario  
James M. Richards  
Orono, Ontario  
Daniel Rivest  
Montreal, Quebec  
Rick C. Rosatte  
Brooks, Alberta  
Peter F. Saracino  
Welland, Ontario  
Nancy J. Sawyer  
Lachine, Quebec  
Richard R. Snell  
Toronto, Ontario  
J.R. Sperling  
Sarnia, Ontario  
Ian D. Toms  
Sarnia, Ontario

If you know any of our new members or meet them, make them welcome and introduce them to others.

July, 1980

The Membership Committee  
Fran Goodspeed, Chairman

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Autobiography of

**JOHN MACOUN**  
**Canadian Explorer**  
**and Naturalist**  
**1831 - 1920**

Don't forget that the *Autobiography of John Macoun*, second edition, is available until October 1 at the special discount price for members of \$10.00. The price for non-members and for members after October 1 is \$12.50; the price for institutions is \$15.00. There is an additional charge of \$2.00 for postage and handling if you don't pick up your copies at the Club's Monthly Meetings.

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# What Are Your Interests?

Butterflies?...Birds?...Plants?...Geology?...

You have probably heard of the old Fern, Bird, Traill and Orchid groups which flourished in the late '50's and '60's. Well, at the last Council meeting it was felt that there is a need for some special working groups for members who are interested in learning or taking part in small Club projects.

But you are asking what sort of projects these groups would be doing. One obvious project would be a study comparing the different bird species inhabiting different woodlots around the city. This sort of study could, of course, be extended to other fields of natural history. This is only one suggestion; you undoubtedly have many more.

Remember, you don't have to be "Joe professional" to take part in these groups. Groups would be set up for members who want to get out and take part as a learning experience or to help other people. Since groups need people to exist, why don't you call the Club number (722-3050) and let us know what you would like to take part in and what sorts of things you would like to see groups doing.

Here is your chance. Don't wait until spring, call now if you are interested.

See you in the field.

Loney Dickson  
Vice-president

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## Club T-Shirts

NOW AVAILABLE: T-Shirts decorated with the Club's owl

- \* in a choice of 4 colours -  
bright yellow, pale blue, beige and white
- \* in the 3 children's sizes and 4 adult sizes

The price of each T-shirt is \$5.75.

Place your order by calling the Club number (722-3050) after 10 a.m.

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# President's Message

As I am sure you know, The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club has, particularly in the last decade, been playing a very active role in conservation issues in the Ottawa area. However, you are probably not aware of many of the recent developments, particularly with relation to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and I would like to bring you up to date.

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club is an organization that is well-suited to play a leading role in local conservation issues, since there is a wealth of expertise among the 800 local members. In addition to the numerous professional field-biologists who contribute their broad knowledge to the Club's activities, there are many others who have a well-developed, specialized knowledge of one or another aspect of natural history. This expertise has enabled the Club to contribute significantly to the recognition of Natural Environment Areas within the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton\*, and the Club has thereby earned the respect and appreciation of regional planners and concerned politicians.

The significant natural features within the Natural Environment Areas (that is, Environment Areas - Class 1) are ecologically sensitive and need special management, for example, The Sand Hills, for which David White described the unique features and management problems last year\*\*.

Recognizing the need for special management, the Regional Municipality has set about acquiring some of the more important Natural Environment Areas, particularly in the Marlborough Forest. To do this at minimum cost to itself, the Regional Municipality has taken advantage of a cost-sharing program offered by the Ministry of Natural Resources, whereby the Ministry pays 75% of the purchase price and the Regional Municipality 25%. This program is operated under the Forestry Act, and one of the terms of the agreement is that the lands will be managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Another condition is that the lands must be, at least in part, suitable for forestry purposes. Consequently,

*\*In this connection it should be emphasized that other organizations, such as the Canadian Nature Federation and the National and Provincial Parks Association, have also played an important role in this process by voicing their strong support for conservation.*

*\*\*White, D.J. 1979. The Sand Hills. Trail & Landscape 13(4): 126-131*

the Ministry tends to regard these lands strictly from the point of view of economic gain and tends to ignore the significant natural features already recognized by the Regional Municipality, features such as climax forests or important plant communities. From the conservation point of view, this is a very distressing situation, particularly after the hard work that has been expended in identifying these features.

From the Club's point of view, the acquisition of these lands seemed to be a very commendable step, and it was only later that the full consequences were realized. During the last year or so, we have attempted to discuss our concerns with the Ministry of Natural Resources, both at the local level and at the ministerial level. Let me deal with the local situation first.

Starting in April of last year, the District Manager of the Ministry, W.D. Adlam, has met with members of the Conservation Committee three or four times and has been shown some of the areas that were of concern to the Club and which were under his management. Unfortunately, due to misunderstandings on both sides, progress has been much slower than we had initially hoped. However, in June, 1980, I discussed further our difficulties with Mr. Adlam, and I think we now have a much clearer understanding of what can and cannot be done at the local level. Under the management plan, which may last forty or fifty years, the Ministry keeps a record of revenues and costs, and these are credited or debited to the account of the owner, in this case the Regional Municipality. Hence, if in order to protect a significant feature we request some change in procedure that would result in loss of revenue or increased cost to the Regional Municipality, the District Manager can do nothing unless the Regional Municipality approves. However, even the granting of approval will get us nowhere if the required action contravenes the terms of the Forestry Act. Additionally, over and above all this, the District Manager has imposed upon him, by senior management, wood production quotas which conceivably can make it very difficult for him to make concessions to conservation, regardless of how sympathetic he might be. In the months ahead, we shall discuss with Mr. Adlam and regional planners what can be done to protect significant natural features, but because of the aforementioned problems, we are not at all optimistic about the chances of achieving the bulk of our goals.

Whilst our dialogue was progressing with Mr. Adlam, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists', being aware of the problem through reports from other parts of the province, seized upon our experience as an example to open an exchange of letters on the subject with the Minister of Natural Resources. Ultimately, we felt obliged to write to the Minister ourselves. Here we encountered a very different response from that of the District Manager. The replies from the Minister's office contained minimal information and displayed a rigid and uncompromising attitude. We thought that it would be useful to clarify the basis on which wood production quotas in expanding urban areas were determined, since this might



help relieve some of the pressure on the District Managers of such areas. The reply was a masterful piece of obfuscation, with no information conveyed. Since our local situation is not unique, we asked that some consideration be given to amendments to the Forestry Act so that proper recognition of ecologically sensitive areas could be assured. We were told that there was "no apparent requirement for a new type of management agreement". The final communication, dated October 30, 1979, contained the following gem: "if a Regional Municipality, or any other, wishes to sterilize a specific area, they might approach The Nature Conservancy of Canada for financial assistance in purchasing the necessary property. If a species is endangered, its name should be submitted for consideration as an addition to the protected list under the Endangered Species Act".

At the time of writing, July 9, 1980, we are still not sure what will be achieved by our dialogue with the local District Manager. However, it is abundantly clear that we will not achieve anything at the present time by further discussion with senior management in the Ministry. In sharp contrast to the Regional Municipality, the Ministry refuses to acknowledge or make use of the well-established expertise within The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club. They also show no understanding of the fact that their policies are at variance with the very reasons for the designation of Natural Environment Area to the lands that they manage. In summary, they seem to have a serious perceptual problem towards protecting these areas.

At this stage, it seems that we have two options left to us. One is to attempt to meet with the Minister of Natural Resources, Mr. James Auld, and try to convince him of the need for changes to the Forestry Act and enlightenment amongst senior management. The other is to write to Premier Davis and ask him how it is that one of his cabinet ministers can sign his name to some of the questionable material that has come out from his Ministry. If we do this, we shall also point out to him that Natural Environment Areas are not designated so that they can be torn apart by forestry practices dating from a bygone era of environmental insensitivity. We are not yet sure which route we shall take, but we shall certainly keep you informed. We may also ask you to write letters to politicians in support of our position. We hope that you, as concerned naturalists, will respond.

*Roger Taylor*

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# Bladdernut Rediscovered

Bill Illman

## ON THE RIDEAU RIVER

Some years ago, Bill Dore reviewed the then current status of Bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia* L.) in our area (Dore 1962). At that time, fearing the consequences of pending development of housing along the north shore of the Rideau River between Billings Bridge and Brewer's Park, Dr. Dore kindly donated a couple of small seedlings he had grown to Carleton University. We attempted to establish them on the campus river bank behind the greenhouses complex (ELBA), that is, to reintroduce the species to a site "near the railroad bridge" where a specimen in DAO had previously been collected. Unfortunately, our efforts were not successful, and since that time all of the known stands have been eliminated east of the Dunbar Bridge on Bronson Avenue.

Given this background, it was a happy day in early June when I came upon a flourishing stand of this attractive shrub just west of the Dunbar Bridge on the Carleton Campus. The older members displayed the distinctive pendulous panicle of whitish flowers which were already advanced to the stage of beginning inflation of the three- or four- carpelled fruit. By June 10, flowering was virtually completed and bladder inflation was well advanced. The originally greenish-white sepals of the calyx had become liberally flecked with red pigment to give a roan effect. On first glance, the flowers appear to form a short raceme, but closer examination shows that the jointed pedicels occur in twos or threes on peduncles less than 2 mm in length, that is, in a narrow panicle. The stipules at the base of the leaves are deciduous so early in development that their abscission scars are most often the only evidence we get of their previous existence.

It is comforting to know that our efforts to retain some natural settings on a campus which is very much over-managed has given safe refuge, at least to date, for one plant rare in our District and a delight to behold.

For the record, specimens have been deposited in the Carleton University herbarium as CCO 30250, with duplicate sheets to CAN (the National Herbarium) and DAO (the herbarium of the Canada Department of Agriculture).

Dore, W.G. 1962. The Bladdernut Shrub in Ontario. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 76(2): 100-103.



*Bill Illman is showing Joyce Reddoch the distinctive white flowers of the Bladdernut on the Carleton University campus.*

photo by Bob Fee



*By the middle of July, the bladders are well developed.*

photo by Joyce Reddoch

## ON THE JOCK RIVER (AND AT DELTA)

Following publicity in Carleton's weekly newspaper, *This Week*, and subsequently in *The Citizen*, a number of calls were received reporting suspected "finds" of this shrub from points as far afield as Delta, 50 km northeast of Kingston. While several, upon questioning, proved to be the unusual fungous disease condition of the Canada Plum caused by a species of *Taphrina*, at least two appeared to be *bona fide* finds of the Bladdernut (or should we call it Bladder-rattle to remove the ambiguity associating it with possibilities of an edible seed.)

One report was of a stand on the privately owned island known as English Island in a lake near Delta. This we have not been able to investigate, but it comes as no real surprise since several sites are known in that general area.

The other report, closer to home, was of a copse on the west bank of the Jock River where it parallels Steeple Hill Crescent 3 1/2 km south of the Fallowfield Road. It was reported by Mr. D.F. Lancaster in a telephone call the last day of June, and from his careful observations it was apparent that his was a valid report of the species. We were invited to visit the Strawberry Farm to confirm his find; that we did on the July 1 holiday. Specimens were taken for the herbaria CCO, CAN and DAO. The Bladdernut was not alone, however, as an interesting plant on that river bank! Along side it there were intertwined vines of Carrion-flower (*Smilax herbacea*) and Moonseed (*Menispermum canadense*), and, not too far distant, the beginnings of a stand of Prickly-ash (*Xanthoxylum americanum*) - all notable plants in the Ottawa District.

## ON THE NORTH CASTOR RIVER

by Albert Dugal

On June 30th, Mike Shchepanek and I visited a site beside the 9th Concession Road in Osgoode Township, 3 1/2 km southwest of Edwards, where Anne Hanes saw Bladdernut in 1962. After some searching, we found a large bush on the southwest side of the bridge over the North Castor River, growing in clay soil at the edge of the deep roadside ditch. The bush was quite old, as it extended at least 2 1/2 metres along the fenceline. Unfortunately, most of the main stems, which were about 2 1/2 metres high, had died. Some new growth was noted at the bottom. Specimens were collected for CAN, one with bladders. Considering the condition of this particular plant, it was difficult to ascertain whether it was rejuvenating itself or dying out - only time will tell.

Interestingly enough, north of the bridge we saw one of the most luxuriant growths of Moonseed vine in the Ottawa District. We also found Carrion-flower and Prickly-ash in the immediate vicinity.

# Letters

## An Early Hairstreak Spring

I feel that I should let you know that Peter Hall's article on the Early Hairstreak in the last *Trail & Landscape* (14(3): 67-69) was most timely. The butterfly was seen this year by at least four lepidopterists in numbers exceeding anything in the past. It was seen by Peter Hall on May 25, and by me on May 27 and 29 in Gatineau Park. In addition, I saw one specimen on May 16 and one on June 6 east of Low, Quebec. Of twelve specimens which I saw, only one was a male.

All were on the ground on dry, sandy trails, walking around, probing for moisture with their probosces. They were not at all shy as are most butterflies when on the ground, and it was possible to observe them from only centimetres away without alarming them.

I spent a lot of time trying to obtain eggs from these butterflies, as their life history is completely unknown. I tried with five different females, enclosing them under nets on beech trees for a total of seventeen days. One spent three days in a net enclosing part of a beaked hazelnut as well as part of a beech tree. After examining thousands of leaves and twigs, the only eggs I found were two laid inside a small glass vial in which I was keeping the butterfly awaiting the end of a rainy spell. The eggs were pale green in colour, a little paler than beech leaves and much paler than the leaves of beaked hazelnut. They were about 0.6 mm in diameter and similar in shape to eggs of other lycaenid butterflies.

Both eggs hatched, one after three days and one after six. The first larva was between 1.5 and 2 mm long, yellowish grey in colour and covered with long, fine, pale hair, unlike any other hairstreak larvae I have ever seen. It was lost during an unsuccessful attempt at photography when about thirty hours old. It had, however, absolutely refused to eat, or even remain on, leaves of beech or beaked hazelnut, in each case the youngest, most tender leaves I could find. I didn't even see the second larva. It hatched and escaped from its container while I was at work.

Although the evidence is admittedly slight, it does seem possible that the larvae of the Early Hairstreak do not eat the leaves of either of its proposed food plants. This would explain not only why the females refused to lay eggs on the leaves, but also why nobody has ever found the larvae, although hundreds of collectors have spent probably thousands of hours over the last

century searching for them.

So what do they eat? I would like to suggest that perhaps they eat the flowers and developing nuts of the beech tree. These are almost never found on small trees, and large, nut-bearing trees rarely have branches which can be reached from the ground. Many lycaenid larvae feed on flowers, and at least one hairstreak larva burrows into developing fruit and seeds, so the idea is not too outlandish.

I managed to climb a large beech tree in the Gatineau Park on June 27 and collected about 100 beech nuts. While I found no hairstreak larvae, I found that the nut-cases were still soft and green, and the developing nuts were milky and succulent and definitely edible. Indeed, more than half of them had been damaged by small, burrowing moth larvae, in great contrast to the tough, brittle leaves which had little, if any, damage from larvae of any kind.

Although all this is only speculation, I intend to spend some hours high up in beech trees next spring when the Early Hairstreak is flying.

Ross A. Layberry

## A Successful Bluebird Trail

I read with interest Bill Gummer's article on "Bluebird Trails" in the March-April issue and would like to report on the success statistics from the Bluebird Trail established by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority at the Perth Wildlife Reserve.

Our project is in its third season and the results have been encouraging. In our first year (1978) a total of 21 boxes were placed with 32 bluebirds to flight. In 1979, with 44 boxes in place, a total of 116 bluebirds were fledged.

This year a total of 52 boxes produced a first hatch of 131 bluebird eggs and 84 fledglings from 26 boxes. Some clutches succumbed to abandonment, predation by racoons, and parasitism by blow flies. Other boxes were occupied by Tree Swallows, House Wrens, Deermice and wasps. The second hatch is proceeding (July) and will probably produce about 60 bluebird fledglings.

The Trail extends from the Perth Wildlife Reserve towards the Mill Pond Conservation Area along the county roads. The Trail is looked after by Carson Thompson (Area Supervisor at Perth), and local volunteer help has been invaluable in maintaining, monitoring and recording results.

For further information Carson can be reached at (1-267-5721). Each year he has conducted a motorcade tour of the Bluebird Trail in late May. He extends an invitation to club members and guests to participate next spring and to visit the Perth Wildlife Reserve any time.

Charles Billington  
Information-Education Co-ordinator  
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

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## Preliminary Nesting Results

Further to the report of the two local bluebird trails in the March-April issue of *Trail & Landscape*, here are some preliminary nesting results for the 1980 season.

Leo Roos reported that 21 of 65 boxes were used by bluebirds and that 81 eggs hatched. Some possible second broods were prevented by Tree Swallows, which took over boxes and built over the bluebirds' nests.

Graham MacNay has had some unhappy experience that bears mentioning. Apparently his bluebird boxes catch the eyes of others because a number of his boxes have been removed, while new boxes of mixed sorts have appeared on the fence lines he utilizes. It is a great thing to set an example to others for encouraging the nesting of rather rare birds, but unfortunately, whoever has put up the mixed boxes has exercised no control over the incumbents, and it is Tree Swallows that win out over bluebirds every time. Should any reader recognize any of the human actors in the story of the purloined bird houses, he would be doing the bluebirds a favour if he could somehow get the message to the persons responsible that the bluebird trail should be left to its manager, who probably can better assist the bluebirds in their efforts to establish residence. (Even in his own boxes, however, Mr. MacNay reports 10% bluebird occupancy. Of about 15 boxes in one line, two had bluebirds and the rest had Tree Swallows.)

### Kestrels

Leo Roos also has established a group of boxes for Kestrels, and six nests were started. In the four successful nests, there were 22 young; one nest had 6 young. One nest box is reported to have contained a couple of centimetres of mouse hair.

We hope to have complete 1980 nesting statistics for the next issue of *Trail & Landscape*.

Bill Gummer

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# Recent Bird Sightings



Robert A. Bracken

The months of March and April were unusually pleasant, while the month of May was absolutely fantastic for rarities. Unseasonably warm weather dominated much of the early spring, causing some migrants to arrive earlier than usual. Others were mysteriously late.

The highlights of this spring included a Yellow-billed Loon (which is still unconfirmed as occurring in Ontario), a Snowy Egret, two Little Gulls, a Franklin's Gull, the first spring record of Forster's Tern, two Ruffs, and a Worm-eating Warbler.

The Baillie Birdathon, held on the 18th of May, was a great success this year. One group recorded 148 species, and the other saw 145. Over \$1,000 was raised locally this year for the province-wide Birdathon to aid in various bird-related projects, naturalists' clubs, and the Long Point Bird Observatory. The spring bird count was conducted on May 25th. Highlights included an Arctic Tern, a Bald Eagle, two Short-eared Owl nests, and two probable Western Sandpipers. The total of 175 species observed by 27 observers was about average for these counts.

A Yellow-billed Loon was carefully studied by five observers for more than two hours on the 19th and 20th of May at Shirley's Bay. This bird is practically unheard of east of Alberta. It is an arctic breeder and winters on the West Coast. There are several sight records for Ontario, but the only bird collected turned out to be a hybrid Yellow-billed x Common Loon! Double-crested Cormorants were in good numbers this spring; twelve were seen along the Ottawa River on May 17th. A Snowy Egret put in a brief appearance at the Almonte Sewage Lagoons on April 27th. Other birders searched for it in vain the following morning. It represents Ottawa's third record of this vagrant heron.

The waterfowl migration produced few surprises this spring. The female Barrow's Goldeneye at Shirley's Bay was last seen about April 11. At least twenty Oldsquaw were noted during May. A pair of Surf Scoters on the 19th was of note; Surf Scoters and Black Scoters are very rare locally in spring. More than 350 Common Mergansers at Shirley's Bay on April 4th was a large concentration.

Turkey Vultures are now well established in the region and are no longer an uncommon sight; two on the 29th of March were



early. A major flight of Broad-winged Hawks took place on April 26th; over 150 were seen in one hour at Dunrobin. Roger Foxall and Ramsayville were once again the combination for Golden Eagle. Roger saw two there on March 22nd. An adult Bald Eagle was seen at Black Bay on May 25. There was one report of a Peregrine Falcon this spring.

Twenty species of shorebirds were seen in the rain of May 18th. Two Whimbrels at Shirley's Bay and two Stilt Sandpipers (the first spring record) at Green's Creek were highlights. Ottawa's second Ruff was at Green's Creek on May 3rd, and two weeks later the third caused some excitement at Almonte. American Woodcock seemed late in arriving this year.

An adult Little Gull was seen in an early flock of Bonaparte's Gulls at Shirley's Bay on April 10th. Another immature was found at Britannia in late May. Ottawa's third record of Forster's Tern was at Shirley's Bay on April 27th. Thirty-five Arctic Terns on May 18th was a good showing for this now regular rare migrant.

Two nests of Short-eared Owls containing fourteen young were certainly good news. They were discovered at the Ottawa Airport on May 25th. Two Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers and One Northern Three-toed Woodpecker lingered into mid-May.

Golden-crowned Kinglets and Ruby-crowned Kinglets seem to have recovered from the low numbers of 1977; they were both very common this spring. Seven Yellow-throated Vireos were recorded in May. A Nashville Warbler on April 15th was three weeks early. The light rain of May 11 brought down our first substantial wave of migrant warblers, among them our second ever Worm-eating Warbler, a Cerulean Warbler and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Henslow's Sparrows were found again this year, this time near Mer Bleue on the Ridge Road. Three singing males were heard there in late May.

Club members are respectfully reminded that Shirley's Bay is still officially off limits to the public without permission. Hopefully, there will be more Club excursions planned in the future to what must be Ottawa's most treasured birding hotspot.

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#### Miss Lois Kingston

It is sad to record the passing of Miss Lois Kingston on May 24, 1980. Miss Kingston was a member of the Club for many years and served as a member of the Council. She authored an article "Any Harm in a Cowbird" in *Trail & Landscape* (1(3): 60-63, 1967) based on notes made by her father in 1895.

Miss Kingston was a guest of honour at the Club's One Hundredth Birthday Party, and her picture appeared on page 132 of the September-October, 1979, issue of *Trail & Landscape*.

# Council Report

Peter Hall

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club has for a number of years now presented special awards to students participating in the Ottawa Regional Science Fair. The Fair, held every spring, gives Ottawa-area high school students a chance to show their scientific ingenuity.

The students put together exhibits based on their research in the biological or physical sciences. The exhibits are divided into junior, intermediate and senior classes. The top exhibitors go on to represent Ottawa at the Canada-wide Science Fair, held this year in Thompson, Manitoba.

Because one of the Club's objectives is to promote an interest in biological sciences among Ottawa-area youth, the Council sets aside special prizes each year to be presented to the best efforts in the natural history exhibits. Two Club members judge the exhibits and award the prizes. These consist of \$100 in cash, divided among the best young scientists, and a year's *Trail & Landscape* to each.



Ken Taylor, OFNC Judge (left), with Ottawa Regional Science Fair winners (left to right) Julie Philbrook, David Schneider, Maureen Forsythe and Valerie duPlessis.

The two Club judges each year have had to be very selective because of the excellence of the exhibits. An idea of the quality is given by this year's top winner of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club's prizes. David Schneider is a 16 year old, grade 10 student at Sir Robert Borden High School. His exhibit, "Improving a Natural Insecticide", was based on his study of a bacterium that is the natural enemy of the spruce budworm. David increased by 20% the ability of the biological control agent to kill the budworm. He went on to win a silver medal in his class at the Thompson Canada-wide finals. Already, a Toronto biological company has expressed an interest in further developing David's work.

The other Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club prize winners at this year's Fair, held at the Merivale Mall, were Valerie duPlessis and Maureen Forsythe of Immaculata High School, second prize, and Julie Philbrook of Glebe Collegiate, third prize.

The Ottawa Regional Science Fair will be celebrating its twentieth year next spring. It has regularly drawn large crowds wherever it has been. With its emphasis on encouraging students to delve into the mysteries of science, it is a worthy project for Club support. All Club members are encouraged to attend the Fair next year at the Merivale Mall in April. You will be pleasantly surprised, and maybe a little amazed, at what our young scientists are doing today.

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## A new book

### *GRASSES OF ONTARIO*

by W.G. Dore and J. McNeill. Agriculture Canada. 566 pp. \$12.

This new hard-cover book is a must for anyone interested in grasses. It provides an account of the genera and species of the grass family, both native and introduced, found in Ontario.

The book contains keys to the 78 genera, 238 species, and 123 subspecies and varieties of grasses known to be established in the province. Each genus is described, and for each species, subspecies and variety the characteristic features and distribution within the province are given. Where appropriate, the history of introduction and spread is also discussed. Detailed distribution maps for the species and subspecies and for most varieties is a most useful and noteworthy feature. The florets and caryopses (grains) of all but the rarest species are illustrated by photographs. The habit of 30 species is shown by line drawings.

Copies are available from Nature Canada Bookstore, 75 Albert Street (at a 10% discount for Canadian Nature Federation members).

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# NEW HONORARY MEMBERS

H. Loney Dickson

This year The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club was proud to announce four new honorary members: R. Yorke Edwards, Clarence Frankton, Douglas B.O. Savile, and Mary E. Stuart. The latter two honorary members were presented with their Honorary Memberships and Club pins at the annual dinner.

The following is a brief presentation of their achievements and contributions to the Club and to the natural environment.

## R. Yorke Edwards (written by David Gray)

R. Yorke Edwards is one of Canada's best-known naturalists and is recognized outside North America for his achievements in interpreting nature to the general public.

Yorke became a naturalist in 1937 through the influence of an Audubon Junior Club in a Toronto public school. He joined The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club in 1942 and has been a member ever since. Though birding has been his major hobby, he takes an interest in all natural history subjects and has written over two hundred articles and two books on natural history and interpretation. His major research interests focussed on small mammals, moose, and caribou, although his early training was in forestry.

In 1949, as a parks biologist in B.C., he recognized the need for interpretation in Canada's parks and, after eight years of persuasion, was allowed to establish a temporary nature centre at Manning Park. The centre, composed of two old tents and exhibits made from scrounged materials and \$20.00 worth of supplies, became an instant success, and Yorke became known as one of North America's foremost specialists in natural history interpretation. In 1967, Yorke moved to Ottawa as interpretation specialist for the Canadian Wildlife Service and developed the Wildlife Service's interpretive centres, of which the Wye Marsh centre is perhaps best known to Club members. Through nature centres and park naturalist programs developed under Yorke's guidance or utilizing his ideas, millions of Canadians have become more aware of their natural surroundings. For many, their experiences with interpretive programs have led to a deeper involvement in nature and conservation.

Now Director of the B.C. Provincial Museum, Yorke continues

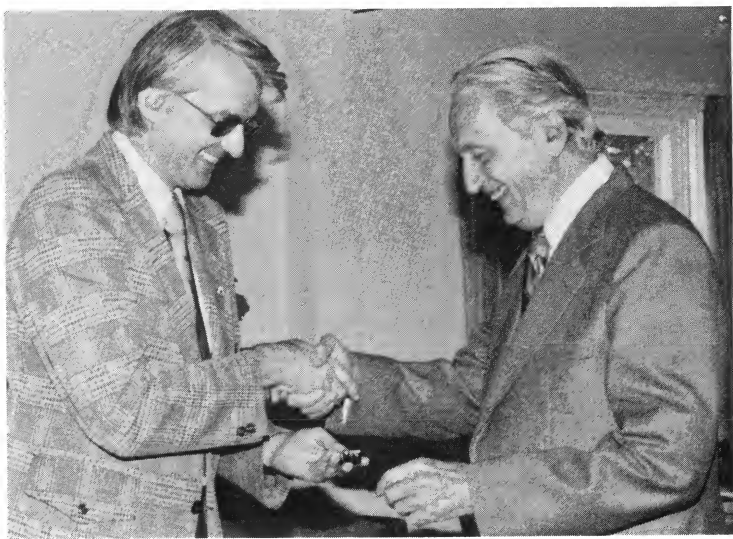
to serve various conservation organizations and to write thought-provoking articles on conservation and interpretation, some of which have been published in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*. For over thirty years he has made significant personal contributions in each of the areas of concern outlined in the objectives of the Club. It is with great pleasure that the Club can honour Yorke Edwards with an Honorary Membership.

#### Clarence Frankton

Clarence, better known to his friends as Clarie, has been extremely active in The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club and in his professional field of botany.

Clarie has been a member of the Club since 1946, during which time he served on the Council for 15 years (1947-1961), was treasurer for three years (1947-1949), and was auditor for ten years (1950, 1953-1960). He was also a member of a number of committees.

While working at the Plant Research Institute of the Department of Agriculture (now the Biosystematics Research Institute), Clarie published numerous professional papers on weedy plants for which he gained an international reputation. Most naturalists will remember his book, *Weeds of Canada*, which was first published



*Clarence Frankton (right) was unable to make it to the annual dinner, but he recovered in time to be presented with his honorary membership and silver pin by President Roger Taylor.*

photos by Chris Schwarzkogler Taylor

in 1955, and which was in such demand that it was reprinted, after revision, in 1970.

Shortly after his retirement as Head of Taxonomy at the Plant Research Institute in 1970, the Canadian Botanical Association presented Clarie with the Lawson Award for his outstanding contributions to the field of botany. This award is presented only when the Botanical Association deems that a particularly significant contribution merits such high honour.

Clarie's knowledge of local botany was vital in the initial recognition of Stony Swamp, Bridlewood and South March Highlands. His local field forays still provide a backbone for the Club to use when preparing briefs and proposals for the protection of natural areas within Ottawa-Carleton.

Besides all of these accomplishments, Clarie's greatest contribution to the Club has been, and still is, the way in which he shares his knowledge so readily with the amateur naturalists. I know a number of people who feel they owe Clarie a great deal of credit for their development as naturalists.

For this, and for his outstanding contributions to the Club and to the field of botany, the Club feels honoured to have Clarie Frankton as an Honorary Member.

#### Mary E. Stuart

Mary has been an extremely active member of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club since 1945. Her outgoing nature and constant willingness to help the Club through the years makes Mary one of our most admired members.

Between the years 1948 and 1972, Mary served on the Council as well as on numerous committees including Membership, Publicity and the Excursions and Lectures Committee.

In the 1950's and 1960's Mary was active organizing meetings and outings for the extremely successful Bird, Fern and Trill groups of the Club. She has continued to help organize field trips and annual dinners and to lead nature hikes. Her presence at Club activities is an important asset because Mary is constantly welcoming new members and making them feel right at home.

Despite all of this activity, Mary still dedicates much of her time and generosity to one of the Club's most active groups, the Macoun Field Club. She has for many years generously invited the Macouners to camp out at her farm near Pakenham, Ontario. This, in fact, was the site of the very first Macoun Field Club camping trip. This trip not only set the way for many more camping excursions, both to the farm and to other locations, but



*Mary Stuart*

also set the precedent for Macoun camping trips to be full of beautiful, rainy days. I don't think I have been on one Macoun trip that has not had a high percentage of rainy days, and believe me, I've been on a few! But, despite the rain, the Macouners seem to enjoy these learning adventures, and, in fact, seem to thrive on water. Mary, on behalf of the Macoun Club, I would like to thank you for that first rainy weekend and for all the help you have given and are still giving to the Macoun Club.

On behalf of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club I would like to welcome you as an Honorary Member, an honour well-deserved.

Douglas B.O. Savile

Doug has been a member of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club since 1944 and served on the Council between 1947 and 1963. During his professional life, Doug has made numerous significant contributions to the field of biology, not only in his professional field of mycology, for which he has gained world-wide recognition while working at the Biosystematics Research Institute, but also in many other fields of natural history.

Doug has always pushed the need for people to have a broad



*Douglas Savile*

knowledge of the natural environment and its functions in order to make sound judgements on biological phenomena. Doug has certainly achieved this knowledge and has also developed an extremely talented ability for observing and understanding natural history processes. This knowledge has led Doug to publish on such topics as bird navigation in homing and in migration, flight mechanisms in swifts and hummingbirds, evolution of the avian wing, splashcup and springboard methods of seed dispersal, and arctic adaptations in plants, to mention a few of his articles.

Doug is extremely willing to assist anyone in a worthwhile project. He is well-known for his eagerness to discuss almost any aspect of natural history and is constantly coming up with new ideas and explanations for certain occurrences in nature.

It is with great pleasure and honour that The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club can recognize Douglas Savile as an Honorary Member.

On behalf of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club I would like to welcome again these four outstanding people to the honorary membership of the Club. May their forthcoming years be as fruitful as those just past.



# Conservation Activities

Joyce Reddoch

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## RIVER CORRIDORS STUDY

The Ottawa and Rideau River Corridors Study by the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton is, as far as significant natural areas is concerned, the second and last phase in the re-evaluation and redesignation of Natural Environment Areas (Reddoch 1980).

The Club's response was presented to the Region's Planning Committee on June 12th. We emphasized the importance of providing stringent, long-term legal protection to the Natural Environment Areas and particularly Environment Areas - Class 1. We pointed out yet again that permitted uses in Amendment 12 catalogued almost every disaster likely to befall a natural area. In addition, management of these areas requires knowledge and long-term dedication and should be based on expertise and not on politics.

The Club felt that the Natural Environment Areas in the current study had been well selected in most cases, and we supported their recognition in the Official Plan. We proposed the extension of boundaries of four areas along the Ottawa River, at Morris Island, Shirley's Bay, Britannia and Petrie Island, to include natural features of regional significance. In addition, the Club proposed three new areas for consideration as Natural Environment Areas. Two of these areas, the shoreline cliffs of Rockcliffe Park and the Rockcliffe Airbase Woods were first studied and recognized as regionally significant in 1979 by Loney Dickson and Stephen Darbyshire. (See page 130 of this issue.) The third new area is the nationally significant fossil locality at Green's Creek which C.R. Harington of the National Museum has been studying. We also discussed the incompatibility of the Recreation Area designation on Upper Duck Island, a sensitive natural area.

## SOUTH MARCH HIGHLANDS

The eastern corner of the South March Highlands in Kanata was designated a Special Study Area in Amendment 12 (Reddoch 1980). Most of this land is owned by Campeau Corporation, which recently revealed a multi-million dollar residential development for it. This move presents a serious threat to the continued existence of the beautiful spring flower woods and fern stands along the Goulbourn Side Road and around Kanata Pond.

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# Ontario's New Trespass Law

Allan H. Reddoch

Recently the Ontario legislature passed a new trespass law, the Trespass to Property Act 1980. Some of the provisions are important for field-naturalists exploring the Ontario part of our region. The new act resulted partly from the concerns of both property owners and recreational organizations, particularly trail groups. The revisions had two objectives: to provide a more effective law to prevent trespassing, and to make it easier to allow selected uses of private property such as hiking trails. A companion law is intended to protect property owners from damage suits if they permit some public access to their land.

The following are some of the highlights of the Trespass Act as they affect naturalists:

- 1) The offence - Trespassing is being, without permission, on property including gardens, fields under cultivation, orchards, vineyards, tree plantations less than 2 m tall, "woodlots on land used primarily for agricultural purposes", property "enclosed in a manner that indicates the occupier's intention to keep persons off the premises or to keep animals on the premises", and, finally, property which has been posted. The methods of posting will be discussed below. In addition, trespassing is not leaving when directed to do so.
- 2) The consequences - A trespasser may be arrested without warrant by either a police officer or the occupier of the premises (who must then turn the trespasser over to a police officer). Upon conviction, the fine may be up to \$1000, and the same court may also award damages up to \$1000. The court may also assess the costs of prosecution against the convicted trespasser. A police officer may also arrest, without warrant, someone he believes to be a trespasser and who "has made fresh departure from the premises" if the person refuses to give his name and address.
- 3) Permission and Posting - This is the most interesting part of the new law and where its flexibility lies. Specific activities, such as fishing, can be prohibited on the property, in which case it is assumed that no other activity, such as hiking, is prohibited. On the other hand, if specific activities, such as swimming, are permitted on the property, then it is assumed that no other activity, such as hunting, is permitted.

Permission or prohibition can be given orally, in writing, by signs or in pictures, such as an outline of a hunter. This

would show that the activity is permitted. A diagonal line through the name or picture would show the activity is prohibited. Red marks at least ten cm in diameter show that entry is prohibited on the property. On the other hand, similar orange marks show that entry is prohibited except for certain purposes. It is then up to the would-be user to see if his would-be use is allowed.

Property owners in this province have had problems with trespassers such as hunters and snowmobilers. In some parts of the province, hikers have become unpopular with property owners, for example, in the Bruce Peninsula, partly as a result of public hearings on the Niagara Escarpment Plan. Closer to home, field-naturalists have become unpopular with some property owners affected by the Ottawa-Carleton Official Plan and its Natural Environment Areas. Common courtesy would avoid many problems, but, in any event, we should understand the legal rights involved.

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## *Peregrine Falcon Release 1980*

This year, Hull received eight Peregrine Falcons to hack and release. (See pages 90-98 of the last issue.) The chicks arrived on July 3rd. Four (two males and two females) were placed in the hack box on the Fontaine Building, and the other four (one male and three females) went to the original hack box on Place Vincent Massey. The release date was set for Saturday morning, July 26th.

On the Wednesday before the scheduled release date, the Canadian Wildlife Service biologists removed the chicken wire tacked across the bars to keep the young chicks in, believing the birds were now too large to squeeze through the bars. However, on Thursday, one male was discovered sitting out on the ledge at the Fontaine Building. By Friday, three males and one female there had escaped and were taking trial flights. So the grand release at the Fontaine Building on Saturday morning was of the last remaining female in the hack box. However, the assembled bird watchers were treated to excellent views of the flying Peregrines at release time and throughout the day.

At Place Vincent Massey, progress was much slower. After the bars of their hack box were removed, the Peregrines took a long time to come out on their ledge and begin to fly. Traffic noise at the time of release may have contributed to the birds' shyness.

An attempt was made to colour-mark the birds with picric acid, but it was quickly found that the dyed feathers, when wet, turned the same brownish colour as the breast feathers and could not be distinguished. So that project was dropped.

The Peregrines should still be in the area through August and September. If you spot any immature Peregrine Falcons during this period, Iola Price would like to know about it at 997-3229.

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# Stillwater Creek

H. Loney Dickson

During the past year, Stephen Darbyshire and I held a contract with the National Capital Commission to look at twenty-four natural areas within the Ottawa District. This article is the first of a series which I hope to write to let you know a bit about some of the more interesting areas we looked at last year (Dickson and Darbyshire 1979).

Undoubtedly most of you are as familiar with the Stillwater Creek area as Stephen and I were prior to doing the inventory of it. The creek is a small one which runs through some fields and woodlots around the Moodie Drive - Queensway intersection, and heads northward under the Corkstown Road to the Ottawa River between Lakeview and Crystal Beach. Most of the land is publicly owned - by the National Capital Commission in the south along the Queensway, and by Nepean north of Corkstown Road (Corkstown Park and Andy Haydon Park).

Once we entered the area, we wondered why we hadn't visited this spot earlier in our lives, for the area is, to say the least, excellent. There are numerous habitats here - fields, woodlands and shorelines. Because of this large diversity of habitats, the area provides an excellent environment for birders, botanists, hikers, and even people who just enjoy being out in a pseudo-natural environment setting.

By now, you are probably saying, "Great, but what can I expect to see there?" In the southern section of the area, near the Queensway, the creek flows through a field and over a large, flat expanse of sandstone bedrock. In fact, some sections of the creek flow through miniature canyons in the bedrock. The open fields support a large assortment of interesting plant species. If you go to this area (Vegetation Units 1-2 on the map on page 132), you should keep an eye out for both Red Elm and Rock Elm, as well as Fox Sedge (*Carex vulpinoides*) and the rare Jointed Rush (*Juncus articulatus*). These latter two species are found in shallow, moist depressions in an otherwise dry, sandy environment.

If you follow the stream northward (downstream), you will enter the woodland habitats, which encompass the steep clay banks of the creek. For those of you who dislike roughing it through the woods, there is a trail that follows along the upper bank of the creek. The woods in this area change with variation in the soil moisture and texture. For example, in the dry, sandy gravels and sandy clays (Vegetation Units 4-3 and 4-6), Sugar Maple, Basswood and Black Maple are the dominant tree species, while in the clay sites (Vegetation Units 4-4, 4-5, 4-7

and 4-8), Black Ash, Red Ash and Basswood are more dominant, although the maples still do occur.

If you walk through Vegetation Unit 4-6, make sure you look out for *Elymus villosus*. Did I hear you ask, "What's that?" Well, it's a grass which is considered to be rare in Ontario and rare in Canada (Argus and White 1977), as well as in the Ottawa District. I could go into a great description of what this *Elymus* looks like, but I think it would be easier for you to look it up in a good botany book.

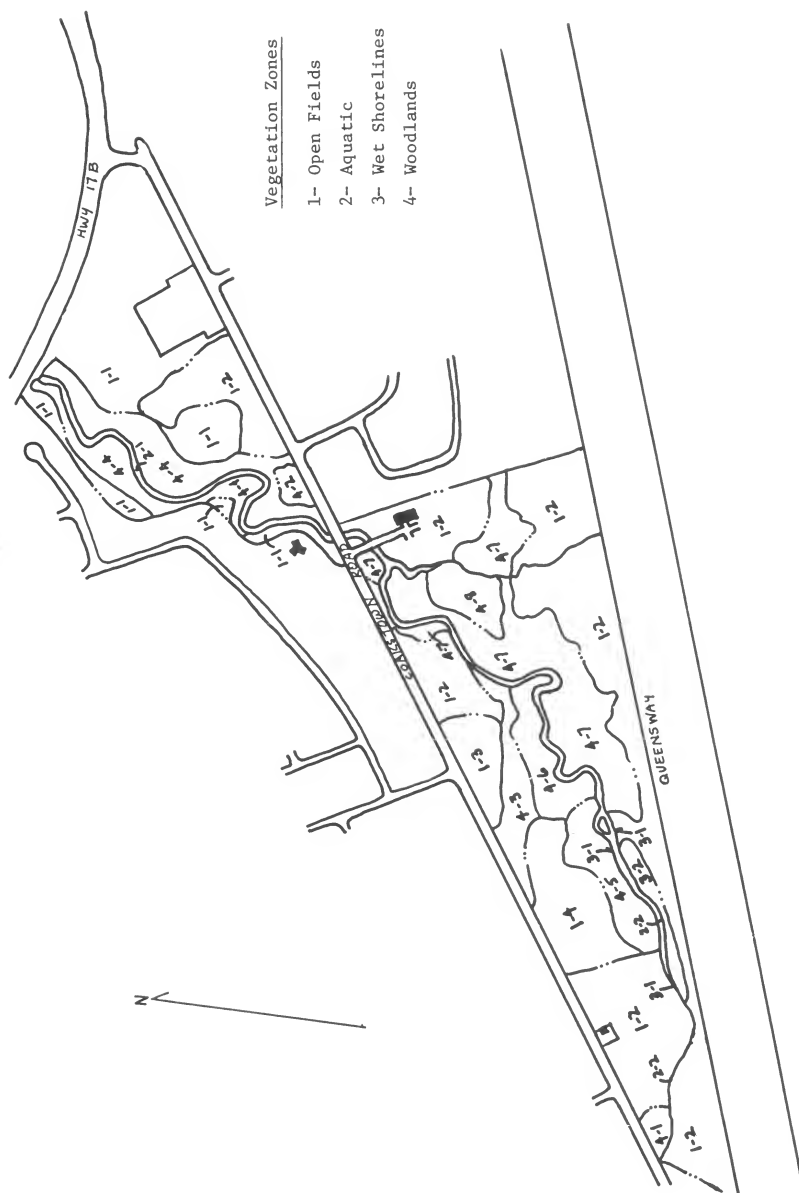
Speaking of rare plants, if you are interested in what plants are considered rare in Ontario, you should write to the Rare Plants Project, Botany Division, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0M8, and ask for a copy of *The Rare Vascular Plants of Ontario* by G.W. Argus and D.J. White.

Of all the woodland habitats, Vegetation Unit 4-4 is by far the richest in terms of interesting plant species. As the soil moisture changes due to changes in elevation, this habitat shows distinct changes in the tree species which dominate it. The lower areas are much moister than the higher areas. Thus species such as Silver Maple and Black Ash dominate the lower areas, while Basswood becomes more prevalent in higher, drier sites. Species such as Blue-beech (*Carpinus caroliniana*), Woodland Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*) and an interesting colony of white-flowered Deadly Nightshade (*Solanum dulcamara*) are among the significant plant species on the drier sites. For a real treat,



During its lifetime, Stillwater Creek has exposed a large expanse of sandstone bedrock near the Queensway. photo by Joyce Reddoch

# Vegetation Units of Stillwater Creek



# SIGNIFICANT VASCULAR PLANT SPECIES OF STILLWATER CREEK\*\*

<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Unit</i>
<u>Zone 1: Open Fields on Sandy Clay</u>		
u Fox Sedge	<i>Carex vulpinoides</i>	1-2
r Jointed Rush	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	1-2
u Red Elm	<i>Ulmus rubra</i>	1-2
<u>Zone 2: Aquatic</u>		
s Stemless Bur-reed	<i>Sparganium chlorocarpum</i>	2-2
s Perfoliate Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton perfoliatus</i>	2-1
s Red-disk Pond-lily	<i>Nuphar x rubrodiscum</i>	2-1
s Hermaphroditic Water-starwort	<i>Callitriche hermaphroditica</i>	2-2
<u>Zone 3: Wet Shoreline on Sandy Clay</u>		
s Stemless Bur-reed	<i>Sparganium chlorocarpum</i>	3-1
u Northern Manna Grass	<i>Glyceria borealis</i>	3-1
u Foxtail Sedge	<i>Carex alopecoides</i>	3-1
u Fox Sedge	<i>C. vulpinoides</i>	3-1, -2
u Red-sheathed Bulrush	<i>Scirpus microcarpus</i>	3-1
<u>Zone 4: Woodlands</u>		
u Dwarf Yew	<i>Taxus canadensis</i>	4-4
r ---	* <i>Elymus villosus</i>	4-6
u Nodding Fescue	<i>Festuca obtusa</i>	4-4
u White Grass	<i>Leersia virginica</i>	4-4
u Foxtail Sedge	<i>Carex alopecoides</i>	4-4
r Gray Sedge	<i>C. grisea</i>	4-4
s Hairy Sedge	<i>C. hirtifolia</i>	4-5
u Broad-leaved Sedge	<i>C. platyphylla</i>	4-7
s Bur-reed Sedge	<i>C. sparganioides</i>	4-1
u Fox Sedge	<i>C. vulpinoides</i>	4-4
u Blue-beech	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	4-4
s Wild Currant	<i>Ribes triste</i>	4-3, -4
u Wood Strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	4-3, -4
s Black Maple	<i>Acer nigrum</i>	4-3, -6, -7
u Anise-root	<i>Osmorhiza longistylis</i>	4-1
u Cardinal-flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	4-4
r rare      s sparse      u uncommon		

\*\* Nomenclature and status in the Ottawa District follow Gillett and White 1978.

\* rare in Ontario and rare in Canada (Argus and White 1977)

watch out for the brightly-coloured Cardinal-flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) which can be found blooming along the creek banks at the water's edge. I am sure that everyone will know, or will be able to guess at, the identity of this beautiful, scarlet-coloured flower when he or she first discovers it.

So, if you want to spend some time hiking around one of Ottawa's natural areas, I would recommend highly that you take a trip to Stillwater Creek. I guarantee you won't regret it.

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The contents of this article do not necessarily reflect the policies of the National Capital Commission.

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## Your File Key

Would you like to know what that number on your mailing label is? Take, for example, 74005CL-ITC

- 74 the year you joined the Club and from which you have maintained an unbroken membership;
- 005 designates that you were the 5th person joining that year;
- C Canadian, F - foreign;
- L Local (Ottawa area), O - other than local, A - American;
- I Individual, F - Family, S - sustaining that year, L - life member, or H - Honorary;
- T you receive *T&L*; C *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*

This key was started in 1974. Any number prior to 1974 may not be exact as the information was available only from old files. Perhaps you would like to correct us?

Membership Committee



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# Breeding Bird Survey

Roger Taylor

During the past fifteen years or so, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service have been operating a project called the Breeding Bird Survey. The object of the exercise is to try to obtain reliable information concerning relative changes and distributions of populations of breeding birds in North America from year to year. The procedure adopted is to ask volunteer observers to follow prescribed routes during the breeding season (June and early July in Ottawa). The observers start a half hour before sunrise, record every identifiable bird seen or heard during a three minute period, and then proceed by car precisely half a mile along the route to repeat the process. They continue until they have completed fifty stops. The time taken is usually a little over four hours, and normally an assistant is needed to record the data. Now, of course, there is no way that any observer is going to come close to recording all the birds that are within range, but if the same observer follows the same pattern year after year, population trends can be detected even within a single route. In 1966, about 600 routes were run in the United States and Canada east of the Mississippi, and now there are close to 2000 routes run over the entire continent. By correlating the data from all of the routes, it is believed that considerable significant statistical information can be obtained. For example, population density maps can be constructed, correlations with weather indices can be determined, and overall population trends can be monitored.

In the Ottawa area, at least five routes are run by local bird observers. I have been a participant since 1977 and have completed my fourth survey along a route running west from Eardley, Quebec, this summer. Each year, Bernie Ladouceur has acted as my assistant. We have always tried to do our route on a Sunday towards the end of June. This year, we went out on June 22, starting at a point on the highway just west of the Eardley-Masham Road at 4:46 a.m. Stars were still visible in a cloudless sky, and only a slight breeze could be detected. At the first stop, we heard (it was difficult to see) 1 Killdeer, 1 Mourning Dove, 2 Barn Swallows, 6 Crows, 1 Brown Thrasher, 4 Robins, 1 Veery, 2 Common Yellowthroats, 2 Chipping Sparrows, 2 White-throated Sparrows and 4 Song Sparrows. As we moved along, we continued to get Crows, Robins, Yellowthroats, Chipping Sparrows, and Song Sparrows, but other species came and went. We got our first Red-winged Blackbird (startled into flight) at the second stop, but it was not until the sixth stop, at sunrise at the start of a beautiful day, that Red-winged Blackbirds started to call. After that, it was difficult to get away from them.

The route continues along the highway to Quyon where it turns down into the town. As we went along, we added Common Loon and Pied-billed Grebe (both first for us in four years), Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Kingbird, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Peewee, Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Catbird, Wood Thrush, Starling, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Ovenbird, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Meadowlark, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Goldfinch and Savannah Sparrow. The numbers were mounting up as we moved through farmland and patches of deciduous woodland with the occasional wet spot. At Quyon, Rock Dove, Chimney Swift and Nighthawk (another first) were noted down. It was still early - about 6:15 a.m. - and there was no one to observe the suspicious behaviour of two disreputable-looking birders intensely listening and peering in all directions. As we left the town, still going west, we picked up two Willow Flycatchers, loud and clear at stop 21. All this time we were hearing Crows at every stop, and the Red-winged Blackbirds, once started, refused to let up. Also, Song Sparrows and Yellowthroats were still being heard at nearly all stops. At stop 25, after crossing the highway, we passed through Wyman, recrossed the highway at stop 27, and headed out on a dirt road towards Norway Bay. Again, we were moving through the same types of habitats, very rich in numbers of birds and still adding to our species list. The Bobolinks by this time were coming through in no uncertain terms, and we went through seven stops in a row where there was at least one Snipe.

Stop 32 is unique in that there is a large expanse of very wet, tall grass. Here, from past experience, we expected to get Marsh (Long-billed) Wrens and were not disappointed as we added three to the list. There was also a Green Heron and 50 Red-winged Blackbirds. (I saw all 50.)

We reached Norway Bay at stop 37 at about 7:45 a.m., and the abrupt contrast in habitat revived us as the strain of maintaining the pace was beginning to tell on us. There we plunged into the cool environment of tall pines close to the Ottawa River with cottages of all shapes, sizes and colours dispersed throughout the trees. In that habitat, which lasts for about four stops, there are far fewer individual birds, but the species can be quite different. We expected to pick up both Nuthatches, House Wren, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Pine Warbler and Dark-eyed Junco. Only the Juncos failed to show, but as bonuses we heard a Towhee and two Ring-billed Gulls (another first).

Heading out of Norway Bay, we proceeded past the golf course, where we heard, as usual, a Purple Finch and added a Red-shouldered Hawk (yet another first), and moved on towards the village of Bristol back in our usual habitats of mixed farmland and deciduous woodland. In Bristol, people were now very

much up and about, but we did our best to ignore the suspicious looks and stick doggedly to our task. It was getting harder and harder to recall all the birds seen in the specified three minute period, but the end was in sight. Miraculously, we added two Brown Creepers at stop 47 and two Ruffed Grouse at stop 49, both of them for the first time in four years. Then, finally, at 8:56 a.m., our survey came to an end on a dirt road a few miles south of Shawville. The sky was still cloudless, the breeze was still slight, and the day was warming up as a feeling of relief and satisfaction enveloped us.

As we drove back into town, Bernie reported that we had recorded 81 species, compared with 75, 78 and 72 for 1977-1979. However, of those 81, 11 were for the first time. A total of 1833 individuals was recorded, a number about 50% higher than is found on similar routes, indicating the richness of that area from a bird point of view. We recorded 383 Red-winged Blackbirds, 122 Crows, 104 Starlings, 102 Bobolinks, 90 Robins, 82 Song Sparrows, and so on down the line. With the exception of Bobolink, the numbers of these species are not out of line with other years. For 1977-1980, we recorded 79, 74, 30 and 102 Bobolinks, which may indicate something unusual for 1979. Over the same period, the House Wren numbers increased from 1 to 10, and the Savannah Sparrows crashed from 100 to 25. In 1978, we recorded only 2 Chickadees and no Nuthatches; in 1980, the numbers were 21 for Chickadees and 7 for each Nuthatch. Another interesting statistic is the fact that we recorded Crows at 49 of our 50 stops and Song Sparrows at 43. Red-winged Blackbirds, although most numerous, were recorded at only 36 stops. The comparisons are endless.

Bernie and I have participated in the Breeding Bird Survey for four years now, and we have derived a lot of satisfaction from it. It is always a challenge to see what birds can be recorded along our route; it is most interesting to compare one year with the next; it sharpens our skills; it is a real eye-opener to see how many birds are actually recorded; and, of course, it is most satisfying to be able to contribute in this small way to a huge continent-wide project which is adding to our understanding of the birds of North America. I am sure that most participants feel the same, and the respective Wildlife Services are to be commended for the efficient way in which this project is co-ordinated.

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## The Big Elm is Dead

Remember The Brobdingnagian Elm of Pontiac County? Edgar Mulligan described this centuries-old giant in *T&L* in November-December 1978. This year, Edgar informs us, the elm did not leaf out. Old age or Dutch Elm disease has caught up with it at last. And so, the largest known elm in the Ottawa Valley and one of the largest in Canada is dead.

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# Derby Hill 1980

H. Loney Dickson

This year, the trip to Derby Hill was - well - let's say "not bad". The expectations of seeing thousands of hawks were first recognized as high hopes on Friday night, when it began to rain. The weatherman didn't help matters by predicting rain for the entire weekend. But, as usual, he was wrong, at least about the rain.

Saturday was incredible at Derby Hill; literally thousands of hawks were seen. Or, was that tens of thousands? But alas, Sunday was the day of the Club trip.

Sunday at 5 a.m. daylight saving time (which used to be 4 a.m. for those who hadn't noticed) showed clear skies, and thus raised the hopes for a good migration. But there was only one thing wrong: the wind was moving in from the northwest.

\* Arriving at the hill with two busloads of keen birders did not help increase the bird flow over the hills. The wind was still from the northwest, and very few hawks were moving. This proved to be the situation at Derby Hill for the rest of the day.

Only 169 birds of prey, including Turkey Vultures, were seen all day, 16 of which were seen either on the way down or on the way back from the hill. These 169 individuals represent only 9 species, two of which were unconfirmed. A list of the species and number of species seen on the trip is laid out in the Table across the page, along with last year's results for a more depressing comparison.

A total of 41 species of birds was seen on the trip; the most interesting were Cardinal, Winter Wren, Pileated Woodpecker, and a number of flocks of Canada Geese.

On a more positive note, a few "kettles" of Broad-winged Hawks were seen, but only from a distance of three or four kilometres. But good looks at Turkey Vultures, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawks and Kestrel did make the long-distance viewing of the Broad-wings at least reasonably bearable.

By 1:30 p.m. it was apparent that the hawks would not be migrating that day, so a side trip to look at plants and dicky birds was undertaken. This short hike allowed people to see Rhododendron, May Apple and a number of other spring flowers, including flowering trees. The willows were in full bloom, and this made for a number of stops along the way.

# SPECIES ACCOUNT FOR DERBY HILL - 1980 and 1979

Species	OFNC Count 1980	OFNC Count 1979
Turkey Vulture	16	15
Sharp-shinned Hawk	50	400-500
Cooper's hawk	1?	2
Red-tailed Hawk	13	40-50
Red-shouldered Hawk	—	2
Broad-winged Hawk	75	1000-1500
Rough-legged Hawk	—	40-45
Marsh Hawk	6	50
Osprey	3	20-30
Merlin	1?	1
Kestrel	5	30

I hope that no one was overly disappointed in the trip; unfortunately, we can't guarantee the hawks will be there. But just think how good next year will be!

See you there!

## Typists — we need you

Again - we're appealing for additions to our very small *T&L* typing pool. If you can operate an IBM Selectric and would like to help us with an occasional evening's work typing up camera-ready copy, please call Dorothy Greene at 722-3421 (day) or 829-9831 (evening).

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# Bus Trip to Mill of Kintail

Sharon Smith

The Mill of Kintail is situated on the Indian River, a few kilometres north of Almonte, and is one of the most beautiful of the historic and conservation sites in the area. Built in 1830, it was restored a hundred years later by Dr. Robert Tait McKenzie, who used the building as a summer home and studio until his death in 1938. Famous sculptor, surgeon, and physical fitness educator, McKenzie is perhaps best remembered for his many war memorials in Europe and North America. The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club remembers him for his memorial for James Fletcher in the Experimental Farm. The Mill site and surrounding sixty-seven hectares of property are owned and maintained by the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority.

There were about twenty Ottawa Field-Naturalists at the Mill that beautiful last day in May, led by Diana Carlisle and Frank Bell. Diana, who is working for the Conservation Authority, is the site naturalist. We set out first thing on a nature hike through the surrounding woods. We were shown the remains of a Ruffed Grouse nest that was well camouflaged at the base of a tree. Also in the woodlot were some Yellow Lady-slippers, Blue Phlox and Jack-in-the-pulpit, as well as many kinds of common wildflowers. This woodlot is one of the few places in the Ottawa Valley in which Black Maple is found. We located several trees of this species which reaches the extreme northern limit of its range in Ontario in this area.

In another forested section of the property is found a ridge of Nepean sandstone. This is the same kind of stone which was used to build the Mill. On this ridge grow patches of blueberries, Reindeer Lichen, Columbine and Marginal Shield Fern. Bird sightings in the Conservation Area included a Scarlet Tanager, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and an Indigo Bunting. Diana told us of a resident Pileated Woodpecker, but it didn't show itself that day.

On the return trip, we made a stop at the sewage lagoons outside Almonte to look at waterfowl. The sightings were of Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Mallard, Spotted Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper and an American Widgeon.

It was a very enjoyable trip. Thanks, Diana and Frank!

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# N.C.C. Update

Stew Hamill

Over the years, the National Capital Commission has been evolving towards a position which naturalists can more readily identify with, that is, one of increasing environmental awareness. Some of the milestones have been the creation of the interpretation group in 1974, the addition of the first biologist in 1975, and, just recently, the hiring of a biologist for Gatineau Park.

The Commission's most recent change, a major re-organization, is another step along the road. On April 1, 1980, a Greenbelt Division was created to manage Greenbelt lands. Now, for the first time since acquisition of this tract began in 1958, a single unit is responsible for the Greenbelt. In addition, within the Division there is a Conservation Section which will have the following major duties:

- 1) managing Conservation Areas (Mer Bleue and Stony Swamp), woodlots, creek ravines, and other natural resources within the Greenbelt;
- 2) co-ordinating the management of Greenbelt forest lands by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources;
- 3) advising on the management of NCC natural areas which are neither in the Greenbelt nor in Gatineau Park (for example, Britannia Woods).

The division of responsibilities now entrusts Gatineau Park to the Gatineau Park Division (under Mr. Paul Kyer), with René Gélinas as Chief of Conservation at Old Chelsea (827-2711), and the Greenbelt to the Greenbelt Division (under Mr. Sterling Knox), with Stew Hamill as Chief of Conservation at the new headquarters at 161 Laurier Avenue (992-4828).

What haven't changed are the Traffic & Property Regulations. These were very well summarized by Sheila Thomson in *Trail & Landscape* 14(3): 100-101, except that she neglected to mention that these rules, particularly the one preventing collecting, apply to all NCC land including the Greenbelt, and not just to Gatineau Park. Collecting permits are available for valid research projects.

Access to sensitive Conservation Areas has long been a concern of both NCC and the Ottawa Field-Naturalists. Recent discussions have produced a set of guidelines which will hopefully help to allow access while protecting natural areas. These include:

- 1) Groups are to use public trails and facilities wherever possible. Where off-trail activities are necessary, group size will be limited to 15.

- 2) Outings to Mer Bleue and Stony Swamp will be cleared with NCC before announcement in order to avoid conflicts and critical situations. NCC will try to make interpretive staff available for outings to Mer Bleue, if needed.

It is hoped that NCC and The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club can continue to work together to protect natural areas in the National Capital Region.

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## Museum Excursions

### DINOBUS FIELD TRIPS

The Museum of Natural Sciences is offering day-long field trips on the Dinobus during the month of September. The bus leaves the front doors of the Museum, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets, at 10 a.m. and returns at about 3 p.m. Bring your lunch; appropriate footwear and clothing are a must. Registration begins two weeks prior to each field trip (to a limit of 34 participants per excursion). Please register by calling 995-9060.

#### English field trips

Sunday, September 7

Geology of the Ottawa Region

Sunday, September 28

Trees of the Shaw Woods  
(Eganville)

#### French field trips

Sunday, September 14

la géologie de l'Outaouais

Saturday, September 27

Les arbres de la forêt Shaw  
(Eganville)

### BUS TOUR TO POINT PELEE

September 19-21

The Museum of Natural Sciences is sponsoring a trip to Point Pelee during fall bird migration time under the guidance of a knowledgeable leader. For further information and registration call Carleton Travel Service at 226-1730.

### EXHIBITION - THE BIRDS OF JAMES FENWICK LANSLOWNE from September 23

This exhibition of approximately 90 works produced between 1958 and 1972 by the renowned Canadian artist and conservationist was recently donated to the Museum's permanent collection of nature art.

### MUSEUM HOURS

Beginning September 2, the Museum will be open six days a week, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed Mondays).



# Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions and Lectures Committee,  
Frank Bell (521-8046), Chairman

*All times stated for excursions and walks are departure or starting times. Please plan to arrive 15 minutes early to avoid being left behind; leaders are instructed to start promptly. Members arriving on foot or by bus at meeting places for excursions can usually obtain rides with other members going by car. (Mention to the leader that you require a ride if none has been offered.)*

## WEST END WALKS TO SEE BIRDS IN FALL MIGRATION

<u>Date and Time</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Assistant</u>
Sunday, 7 Sept. 6:30 a.m.	Roger Taylor (731-9270)	Bernie Ladouceur
Sunday, 21 Sept. 7:00 a.m.	Bob Bracken	
Saturday, 27 Sept. 7:00 a.m.	Bruce Dilabio (729-6267)	
Sunday, 5 Oct. 7:30 a.m.	Tom Hince (224-9305)	

Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, Carling Avenue  
Bring waterproof footwear and binoculars.

Tuesday	OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
9 Sept.	ALGONQUIN PARK, THE WILDERNESS IN OUR BACK YARD
	Speaker: Dan Brunton
	Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural Sciences Metcalfe and McLeod Streets
	Time: 8:00 p.m.

An illustrated discussion of Algonquin Park through the seasons, focusing on such special features as timber wolves, virgin white pine stands, unique plants, spectacular scenery, and unusual opportunities for Ottawa Valley naturalists. A collection of Algonquin Park literature will be exhibited, and instructions will be given for obtaining items of particular interest.

Saturday      ANNUAL PICNIC: BUS TRIP TO THE BONNECHERE CAVES  
 13 Sept.      Meet: National Museum of Natural Sciences  
                  Metcalfe and McLeod Streets, at main entrance  
                  Time: 8:00 a.m.  
                  Cost: \$3.00 per person

This outing offers several points of interest in addition to the guided tour of the caves and the picnic. These include marine fossils of Ordovician times, rare ferns, a scenic waterfall, and the autumn colours of the Douglas area. The caves are always cool, so bring a sweater. Low-heeled shoes are recommended. Since this is an all-day excursion (8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.), bring a hearty picnic lunch. The cost of the trip covers the \$2.50 entrance fee to the caves and a contribution towards cheddar cheese and apples for the picnic. Participants must register by sending a cheque or money order (payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) to Ellaine Dickson, 2037 Honeywell Avenue, Ottawa, K2A 0P7, at least one week in advance of the trip. Include your name, address, telephone number, and the name of the trip.

Sunday            MUSHROOM FIELD TRIP  
 21 Sept.      Time: 9:00 a.m.  
                  Since only a limited number can be accepted, participants must pre-register on a first-come basis. To register and obtain further details, telephone 722-3050 (after 10 a.m. only).

Monday            BIRDING WITH GEORGE  
 22 Sept.      Leader: George McGee  
                  Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, Carling Avenue  
                  Time: 8:30 a.m.  
                  A visit to Shirleys Bay for the retired and not-so-tired to see birds in fall migration. Bring your own hot soup; pink lemonade may be available.

Saturday          MACOUN NATURE TRAIL ON CONROY ROAD  
 4 Oct.          Meet: Elmvale Shopping Centre, far southeast corner  
                  along St. Laurent Boulevard  
                  Time: 9:30 a.m.  
                  Macoun Club members worked hard to prepare this trail. It is especially well worth visiting under their guidance. For further information, telephone Frank Bell (521-8046).

Wednesday OFNC MONTHLY MEETING

15 Oct. FLOWERS AND FRUITS OF THE FALL

Speaker: Jack Gillett

Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural Sciences  
Metcalf and McLeod Streets

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Jack is curator of the Herbarium of the National Museum and co-author of *Checklist of Vascular Plants of the Ottawa-Hull Region, Canada*. This illustrated talk should prove particularly useful to those going on the Baxter Conservation Area excursion three days later.

Saturday FALL FLOWERS AND FRUITS IN THE BAXTER CONSERVATION  
18 Oct. AREA

Leaders: Leanne Kane (489-3592)  
Frank Bell (521-8046)

Meet: National Museum of Natural Sciences  
Metcalf and McLeod Streets, at main entrance

Time: 9:00 a.m.

A walk through the mature maple-hemlock forest, cedar bush, alder thicket, marsh and open field habitats of the Baxter Conservation Area. Bring a lunch for this all-day outing.

Sunday BIRDING AT SHIRLEY'S BAY

26 Oct. Leader: Steve O'Donnell (226-4217)

Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, Carling Avenue

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Bring waterproof footwear and binoculars.

Saturday THIRD ANNUAL JOINT OUTING WITH OTTAWA RIDEAU TRAIL  
1 Nov. CLUB

Meet: West End Shoppers City,  
Baseline Road and Woodroffe Avenue near  
Woodroffe Avenue exit

Time: 9:30 a.m.

A hike into the Rideau Trail Club property in the Marlborough Forest to the log cabin built by club members, where several bird feeders are maintained. Approximately 9 km round trip. Bring a lunch. There is an outdoor barbecue and an indoor wood stove, so bring cookable food if you wish.

For information, call: Dorice Joyce (829-9130), or  
Eileen Evans (741-0789)

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DEADLINE: Material intended for the November-December issue must be in the Editor's hands before September 13.

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